

## Abstract

Petroleum or coal tar pitch-based cellular or porous products having a density of preferably between about  $0.1 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and about  $0.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$  are produced by the controlled heating of mesophase carbon materials derived from coal tar or petroleum pitch having a softening point in excess of about  $300^\circ \text{C}$  and preferably between about  $300$  and about  $400^\circ \text{C}$  in a "mold" and under a non-oxidizing atmosphere. The porous product thereby produced, preferably as a net shape or near net shape, can be machined, adhered and otherwise fabricated to produce a wide variety of low cost, low density products.

10